

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computer system with a message processor, a method of processing at least a portion of a message where an attempt to previously process the message failed, the method comprising the acts of:

the computer system logging state information corresponding to each of a plurality of the message received messages to a log of state information, wherein logged state information includes an identity of each of the plurality of received messages and the state information identifiesidentifying the status of each of the plurality of received messagesmessage at the time the state information was logged and including a start state indicating the message processor is attempting to process the message and a state indicating whether the message processor completed the processing of the message;

subsequent to logging the state information, the computer system accessing the log of state information and identifying a message indicated as being processed by the message processor for which completion is not indicated, thereby indicating that utilizing the state information logged for the message to identify whether the message previously failed to process; and

in response to identifying an identification that the message previously failed to process, the computer system logging a second state information to the log of state information indicating that the message is being de-featured according to a first rule, removing a portion of the message in accordance with the first rule to increase the likelihood of the message processor being able to appropriately process the message, and attempting to reprocess the message subsequent to removing the portion of the message.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the acts of:

the computer system receiving the a new message;

the computer system generating an identifier for the new message;

the computer system checking the state log to determine if a start state exists for the new message;

upon a determination that no start state exists for the new message, the computer system logging the identifier for the new message and an indication that the processing of the new message has started; and

the computer system attempting to process the new message and logging state information to the log of state information indicating that message processing has started; and logging state information indicating that the new message successfully processed only in response to the new message processing completing successfully.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the identifier is a hash of the new message.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the new message is one of an e-mail message, SOAP message, messaging board post, web message, or instant message.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the acts of:—wherein the attempt to reprocess the message fails, the method further comprising the acts of:

subsequent to logging the second state information, accessing the log of state information and identifying a message indicated as being processed by the message processor for which completion is not indicated and for which the second state information is present, thereby indicating that the message is a previously disfeatured message that previously failed to reprocess;

logging a third state information to the log of state information indicating that the message is being de-featured according to a second rule;

removing a second portion of the message in accordance with the second rule to increase the likelihood of the message processor being able to appropriately process the message; and

attempting to reprocess the message subsequent to removing the second portion of the message.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the message processing state information also includes information about the portion of the message removed.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the second portion of the message removed includes the portion of the message removed.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first rule is based on the type of content within the portion of the message removed.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the type of content within the portion of the message removed is one or more of an alternative format of the message, video data, audio data, image data, text, header information, or executable instructions.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the rules are defined by the transport protocol for the message, which is one of STMP, HTTP, TCP, UDP, or SOAP.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the rules are defined by content format MIME, and wherein the content of the portion of the message removed is one or more of a mixed multipart data, alternative multipart data, parallel multipart data, digest multipart data, application data, video data, audio data, image data, text, header information or the message itself.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein utilizing the state information logged for the message to identify whether the message previously failed to process comprises accessing the state information log and determining if state information exists indicating that the message successfully processed.

13-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in a computer system with a message processor, the computer program product for implementing a method of processing at least a portion of a message where an attempt to previously process the message failed, the computer program product comprising the one or more computer readable media having stored thereon computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the computer system to perform the following:

log state information corresponding to each of a plurality of received messages the message to a log of state information, wherein logged state information includes an identity of each of the plurality of received messages and the state information identifies-identifying the status of each of the plurality of received messages message-at the time the state information was logged and including a start state indicating the message processor is attempting to process the message and a state indicating whether the message processor completed the processing of the message;

subsequent to logging the state information, access the log of state information and identify a message indicated as being processed by the message processor for which completion is not indicated, thereby indicating that ~~utilize the state information logged for the message to identify whether the message previously failed to process; and~~

in response to an identification that the message previously failed to process, log a second state information to the log of state information indicating that the message is being de-featured according to a first rule, remove an portion of the message to increase the likelihood of the message processor being able to appropriately process the message; and

attempt to reprocess the message subsequent to removing the portion of the message.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 24, further comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the computer system to perform the following:

receive the a new message;

generate an identifier for the new message;

check the state log to determine if a start state exists for the new message;

upon a determination that no start state exists for the new message, log the identifier for the new message and an indication that the processing of the new message has started; and

attempt to process the new message, and ~~logging state information to the log of state information indicating that message processing has started;~~ and log state information indicating that the new message successfully processed only in response to the new message processing completing successfully.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the new message is one of an e-mail message, SOAP message, messaging board post, web message, or instant message.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the attempt to reprocess the message fails, the computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the computer system to further perform the following:

subsequent to logging the second state information, access the log of state information and identify a message indicated as being processed by the message processor for which completion is not indicated and for which the second state information is present, thereby indicating that the message is a previously disfeatured message that previously failed to reprocess;

logging a third state information to the log of state information indicating that the message is being de-featured according to a second rule;

remove a second portion of the message in accordance with the second rule to increase the likelihood of the message processor being able to appropriately process the message; and

attempt to reprocess the message subsequent to removing the second portion of the message.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the message processing state information also includes information about the portion of the message removed.

29. (Original) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the second portion of the message removed includes the portion of the message removed.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the first rule is based on the type of content within the portion of the message removed.

31. (Original) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the type of content within the portion of the message removed is one or more of an alternative format of the message, video data, audio data, image data, text, header information, or executable instructions.

32. (Original) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the rules are defined by the transport protocol for the message, which is one of STMP, HTTP, TCP, UDP, or SOAP.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the act of periodically scanning the log of state information in order to find messages that have not processed successfully.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the act of scanning the log of state information in order to find messages that have not processed successfully in response to an event ~~comprising~~ consisting one of (1) system reboot, (2) process restart, or (3) thread restart.